

THE DRUG COLLECTION PROGRAM

It is unsafe to flush drugs. The Drug Collection/ Disposal Program provides a safe, legal and environmentally acceptable drug disposal method. The safe disposal of medications protects water quality, reduces the potential of abuse and lowers the potential for accidental overdoses by children and adults.

As part of a comprehensive plan to fight drug abuse in Waukesha County, the Waukesha County Drug Free Communities Coalition has partnered with ProHealth Care to collect unwanted residential household medications.

Law enforcement has joined this effort by agreeing to provide security and transportation for the environmentally friendly incineration of these medications. Drug collections and disposals must be in full compliance with all federal, state and local regulations. Drugs will be disposed of at a state licensed incinerator.



FACTS ON PRESCRIPTION DRUGS



Seventy percent (70%) of youth who abuse prescription drugs admit to getting them from family or friends.¹

Law enforcement has noticed a steady rise in the abuse of prescription medications by youth, resulting in increased heroin use and overdose deaths. Often, prescription drug abuse is perceived as “less serious” than tobacco, alcohol or illegal drugs because prescription drugs are originally obtained legally.

Addiction Resource Council helpline found when callers were willing to disclose drug of concern: 42% were concerned with opiate or heroin use.

Many teens think these drugs are safe because they have legitimate uses. However, taking them without a prescription, to get high or “self medicate,” can be just as dangerous and addicting as using street narcotics and other illicit drugs.

For the first time ever, there are as many new abusers (age 12 and older) of prescription drugs as there are of marijuana.²

WHY SHOULD I DO THIS?

Abuse is widespread!

Abuse of prescription drugs, particularly painkillers, has increased among teenagers and young adults because they are easy to obtain.

1 in 5 teens in a local intervention program reported using a prescription drug not prescribed to them.

It's your environment – Don't flush!

Drugs flushed down the toilet cannot be removed by the sewage treatment plant or septic system process. These substances are released into waterways which can lead to contamination of surface and ground water.

You can make a difference!

As a teen, finding these drugs is as easy as opening a medicine cabinet, nightstand or purse at home, a friend's house or a grandparent's house.

- Safeguard all drugs at home. Monitor quantities and control access under lock and key.
- Set clear rules for teens about all drug use.
- Properly dispose of unused medication through drug collections.

Let's take the proper steps now to avoid harm to future generations and the environment.

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

- Store all medications out of sight and reach, preferably under lock and key.
- Do a yearly inventory of your medicine and dispose of expired or unused medications.
- Utilize the drug collection events to clean your home of unused and expired drugs.

Day of Collection:

Leave medication in original bottle. Name of medication must be visible for pharmacists to identify, but all personal information can be blacked out with a marker.

Drugs have been detected in drinking water supplies of at least 46 million Americans.³



Do not THROW medications in the trash container or FLUSH them down the toilet.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Donate/Volunteer Now! Support Drug Free Communities Coalition and become part of the solution.

Sponsors are needed in order to continue offering this community service at no charge to participants. Please consider becoming a community sponsor.

Visit our website for more information.

1. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. 2008 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: National Findings.
2. SAMHSA, 2006 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (September 2007).
3. Associated Press Investigation: 2008. Pharmaceuticals found in drinking water.

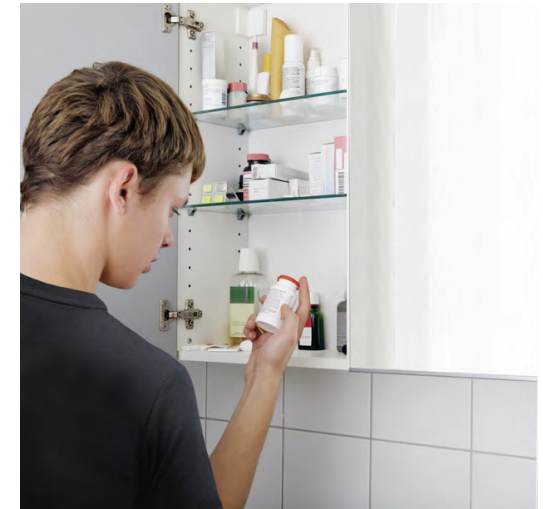


Waukesha County Drug Free Communities
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Look for our next collection or visit us at:
www.waukeshacounty.gov/drugcollection

Prescription and Over-the-Counter Drug Disposal

A prescription for a safer community



Reduce substance abuse, prevent childhood poisonings and help protect our environment



For more information visit:
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